

PAPILIO MENE LAUS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Antennæ apicem versus crassiores, sæpius clavato-capitatae.

Alæ sedentis erectæ sursumque conniventes (*volatu* diurno).

Lin. Syst. Nat., p. 744.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

PAPILIO alis dentatis; supra cæruleis nitidissimis; subtus nebulosis, punctis fuscis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 749.

Eq. Achivi.

Merian Surin. t. 53.

Cram. Inf. 2. t. 21.

Clerk. Icon. t. 21. f. 1.

En superbientis Naturæ miraculum! eximiæ venustatis insectum! vividos adeo colores fortitum, ut vix ulla arte ad vivum possint exprimi.

“Color alarum cæruleus paginæ superioris (inquit LINNÆUS) adeo politus nitidusque, ut vix simile in rerum Natura conspiciatur.” Mirificus hic paginæ superioris splendor a sobrio et modesto paginæ inferioris colore longissime distat; qui tamen ocellis ferrugineis margine nigro circumscriptis, pupillaque albicante

Y.

gemmatus,

gemmatus, sui generis pulchritudinis exemplar non mediocre censetur.

Externa hæc et interna diversitas, (si causam liceat quærere) Papilionem ab avibus fortasse securiorem reddat, ut nempe ab hostibus minus facile discerni queat, dum alis clausis quiescit, quam cum alis expansis pleno splendore effulserit.

Americæ est incola, et ab eruca magna flavescente, spinis nigricantibus armata, originem ducit.





Lycaena P. Picta (Linn.) *Lycaena Picta* (Linn.) *Lycaena Picta* (Linn.)

M E N E L A U S,
OR THE
SILVER-BLUE BUTTERFLY.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

The *Antennæ* or *Horns* thickening towards the upper part, and generally terminating in a knob, or club-shaped tip.

The *Wings* (when sitting) erect, and meeting upwards. (*Flight* diurnal.)

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

BUTTERFLY with indented wings; the upper surface of a brilliant blue, the lower clouded-brown; and marked with large ocellated spots.

Mer. Surin. t. 53.

Cram. Inf. 2. t. 21.

Clerk. ic. t. 21. f. 1.

So uncommonly bright and brilliant is this superb insect, that it can but faintly be expressed by the utmost efforts of artificial colouring; and may serve as an instance, amongst many others, of the inimitable beauty which Nature alone can produce.

LINNÆUS

LINNÆUS in his description of this insect observes, that the blue on the upper surface is so polished and lively that scarce any other natural object can come in competition with it. On the contrary the under surface of the same animal exhibits an example of a species of beauty resulting from a varied combination of the plainest and most sober colours; the ground colour being brown slightly streaked with higher shades, and marked by several very large ocellated ferruginous spots with dark rings and white pupils.

If it were not almost bordering on temerity to attempt a reason for this striking difference between the two surfaces of the same insect, one might suppose that this sobriety of colouring on the lower side, is intended in some measure to secure the animal when sitting at rest, with its wings closed, from the depredations of birds, which are less likely to be attracted in this state than by the full lustre of its expanded plumage.

It is a native of South America, and proceeds from a large yellow caterpillar, beset with black spines.